

**Abstract**

The invention is a method and system for determining the weight of an article without the use of a scale. The method begins with the initiation of a rate determining routine in a shipping system application. After initiation, a description of each article to be shipped is entered into a data field of the rate determining routine. A query for a weight associated with each article is then transmitted from the routine to a database. Once the weight has been obtained, it is returned to the routine as an input parameter for use in calculating a rate for shipment of the article to a particular destination. The rate for shipping each of the articles to its particular destination is determined as based upon the input parameters; these may include a destination for the article, a class of service, or a delivery date. The database can be supplemented by comparing data entered into the first data field with data resident in the database; determining whether or not the comparison further determines that the weight is available; and, if the weight is available, then returning the weight to the routine; or if the weight is not available, then querying the routine to determine whether or not a new weight is to be entered into the database by entry through the routine. The new weight can be determined by one of several alternative entry means wherein the new weight is recorded in the entry fields of the database.